

Outdoor Feeding and Protection of Wildlife Ordinance



Presented by:
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Flagstaff Police Department



Outdoor Feeding and Protection of Wildlife Ordinance

- What we will cover:
 - Public outreach
 - Why an ordinance?
 - Proposed Outdoor Feeding and Protection of Wildlife Ordinance (2013-20)
 - Questions?



Outdoor Feeding and Protection of Wildlife Ordinance

- The Game and Fish Dept.
- Flagstaff Police Dept.
- City of Flagstaff
- Proactive approach to address:
 - Public concerns
 - Public safety
 - Welfare and safety of wildlife



Public Outreach

- Held two public outreach meetings
 - Monday, July 22, 2013
 - Monday, August 12, 2013
 - Arizona Daily Sun (Article after each meeting)
 - City of Flagstaff web page
 - Flagstaff Police Department Facebook page and Twitter



Why an Ordinance?

- Arizona Game and Fish Dept. are responsible for the management of the wildlife within the state
- Keep “Wildlife Wild”
- Intentional or Unintentional feeding causes changes in the natural behavior of wildlife
 - Habituated to humans
 - Dependent on humans
 - Less wary and lose their natural fear of humans
 - Become dangerous
 - Unpredictable
 - Aggressive



Why an Ordinance?

- Feeding
 - Creates unnatural crowding
 - Often attracts predators
- Feeding wildlife exposes them to
 - Harassment and/or attacks from our pets
 - The pets usually loose!
- In all cases both people and the wildlife are effected



Why an Ordinance?

- Food being fed to wildlife is usually not formulated for consumption by wildlife – alfalfa
- Wildlife need to depend on THEIR own ability to find and utilize natural foods
- Wildlife that are fed become a nuisances and may have to be removed from area and killed

A fed _____ is a dead _____!



Disease Problems

- Feeding will artificially concentrate wildlife
- Increases animal to animal contact
- Further spreading disease and parasites



What are your neighbors doing?



- One person feeding usually creates problems for the surrounding neighbors.
- Wildlife do not understand fence lines or property boundaries.

Other Ordinances/Laws

- Navajo County – Ordinance w/in the unincorporated portions of the county
- Cochise County – Ordinance w/in the unincorporated portions of the county
- Gila County – Ordinance w/in the unincorporated portions of the county
- Pinetop/Lakeside – City Ordinance
- Show Low – City Ordinance
- Scottsdale City – Ordinance related to City Parks
- Maricopa, Pima, & Pinal Counties – State law: ARS 13-2927
280,000 population

The Ordinance

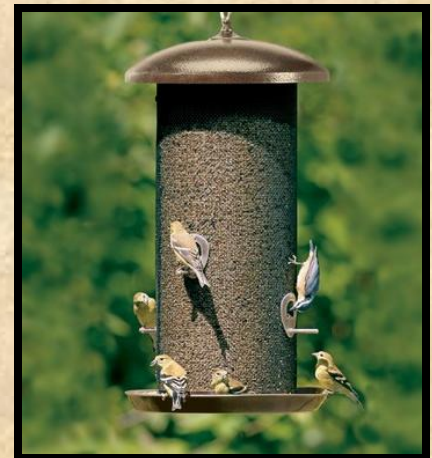
- This is that next step to proactive management of wildlife
- The ordinance will regulate the intentional feeding of wildlife in an effort to protect the welfare and safety of the public and the wildlife
- Unlawful for any person to knowingly (intentionally, recklessly) feed or attract wildlife
- Within Flagstaff city limits



The Ordinance

There are several exceptions within the ordinance which includes:

- Seeds, nectar and other material for birds and squirrels placed specifically for attracting wild birds and/or tree squirrels in a closed top container placed at least 4 feet above the ground
- Edible materials located in a residence, closed vehicle, fully enclosed storage structure, or in a closed trash container
- A person feeding their own horses or domestic animals



The Ordinance

Exceptions con't:

- Growing plants or parts of growing plants if attempts are made to frequently remove attractants such as dropped or ripened fruits, vegetables, grains of nuts
- Compost piles that are fully contained and made inaccessible to wildlife
- Public authorities doing regular duties



The Ordinance

- The exceptions do not apply to any person who knows or has reason to know that an activity is attracting wildlife other than birds or tree squirrels.
- To avoid a violation, a person shall modify placement of any edible material, immediately cease the activity, or take such actions as the situation may require.
- The ordinance addresses blatant feeding of wildlife except birds and tree squirrels.



Enforcement Actions

- There have been four people cited in Arizona for feeding wildlife after all other measures were taken to convince them to stop
- Two people cited in Pima County
 - The first was a woman that was feeding bears (Before the statewide no feeding law)
 - The second was a woman that was feeding Ravens dog food
- Two people cited in Maricopa County for feeding javelina
 - One person was cited for feeding javelina dog food. Nine javelina had to be euthanized because they became habituated and aggressive.
 - One person was cited for feeding javelina restaurant scraps
 - A third person is under investigation for feeding javelina

Enforcement Actions

- This ordinance will be enforced based on complaints generated from the public
- Officers will not be out patrolling neighborhoods
- There must be contact by an officer
- Game and Fish personnel regularly contact people who are feeding wildlife. In most situations the individuals don't realize the real problem and stop after hearing that feeding wildlife is not the right thing to do.



Enforcement Actions

- First violation: An officer will issue a written warning and provide wildlife educational materials. There will be a discussion regarding the type of feeding the person is doing including recommendations. The person will receive a follow-up letter from the Game and Fish Dept. outlining the situation.



Enforcement Actions

- Second violation w/in 60 days: The new violation is a petty offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$150.00.



Enforcement Actions

- Third violation where the person was previously convicted w/in 90 days: The new violation is a petty offense punishable by a fine not less than \$150.00 and not more than \$300.00.



Enforcement Actions

- Fourth violation where the person was convicted two or more times w/in 180 days: The new violation is a class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine not more than \$750.00 and 30 days in jail.



Questions?

